

SECOND FORT CRAWFORD MILITARY HOSPITAL

Rice Street at South Beaumont Road, Prairie du Chien

Fort Crawford, the strongest of a chain of forts built along the upper Mississippi after the War of 1812, was the center of federal authority in the Old Northwest. The fort was relocated to higher ground in 1829, and the hospital was built ca. 1835. Fort Crawford was abandoned in 1856, reactivated during the Civil War, and sold in 1872. In the 1930s a Works Progress Administration team reconstructed the hospital around its remaining foundations, and it now serves as a museum of medical history. Dr. William Beaumont, post surgeon during the 1820s, conducted important experiments in digestive processes at Fort Crawford, but it is doubtful that he was associated with the second fort's hospital.